THE
WRESTLING FLYER
NEWSLETTER

Join Our Frequent Flyer Plan Today For Discounted Rates!!

August 1, 1992 **Issue #8**

INTERVIEW
KERRY VON ERICH

BY JOHN CLARK

JC: I was wondering how you first got started in wrestling and what kind of an influence your father had on it?

KVE: My father was a great, great wrestler and like all little kids, boys want to be like their fathers, especially if they're successful. My father was really successful, he was one of the greatest promoters in the history of this sport. My brother Kevin came in first, then my brother David, and then I came in, then Mike came in, then Chris came in. But I came in because of my father and his success in the business and owning the promotion here in Dallas. That was probably the promotion that pioneered all of wrestling. If it wasn't for my father, the WWF would have never come along, or WCW or anything else, and we firmly believe in that.

JC: Your father probably trained you, but did you receive training from anybody else?

KVE: Yeah, my dad trained me in fighting. A great, great Greco-Roman wrestler from Iran named Khosrow Vaziri, who went into the WWF as the Iron Sheik, he's one of the greatest amateur wrestlers ever in our business. He helped me out a lot and I used to wrestle amateur with him, when I used to fight amateur through high school as well as through Texas and all over the United States as a young kid. I started wrestling in elementary school, I was seven years old when I first started wrestling. I also played football at Lake Dallas High School and the University of Houston. In high school I was an All-American in football and went on to college and was an All-American in track & field and set the world record in track & field in college. I set the world record in high school in track & field eleven different times, but that was all in the discus. In 1980 they boycotted the Olympics and I stepped out of college and right into pro wrestling.

JC: Was your father's promotion just about your favorite group to ever work for?

KVE: Yeah, but I got to say that I appreciated the WWF, I appreciate the charisma that they've added to our sport. I don't appreciate some of the showmanship they've added to it, but as far as the charisma and the gasoline they've put in it to fuel our sport, I do appreciate that.

JC: But do you think that the low houses across the country right now are due to the over-doing of the cartoon gimmicks?

KVE: In somewhat it does, but I think the overall US economy is hurting, it is down. I guarantee we go across the world, over in Paris, France, Scotland, Italy,

Germany, England, Ireland, those people are primed and ready to go. We sold out in ten hours, 80,000 tickets for SummerSlam, so the economy is okay over there.

JC: What do think is the main reason(s) World Class out of Dallas fell apart?

KVE: I think World Class fell apart because I left. It's obvious, when I went to New York (WWF), is when it went down, when it closed up. I think I'm to blame why WCCW failed, because I went to New York. Now I'm back, I'm going to work with independents and get Dallas moving again.

JC: Do you feel any guilt about the subject you just talked about?

KVE: In a way I do because it's something that my brother David, in so many words, gave his life for. My brother Mike gave his life for this business here in Dallas that we started. My brother Chris, that's all he ever wanted to do, was be in this business here in Dallas. When I stepped out and left Texas, Texas shut down, and I left my brother Kevin here. So yeah, I feel a lot of remorse and a lot of guilt for the whole thing. But Kevin stood behind me all the way, like a brother stands behind a brother. My brother's love for me is unconditional, I mean I could go out and kill a thousand nuns and a thousand presidents, and my brother Kevin is going to love me just the same as he loves me right now. I'm sure he was hurt by the whole thing, but we talked about it and Kevin's knees at the time were bothering him and he was ready to slow down off the business, and I was ready to push forward, and so I did.

JC: Why exactly did you decide to move on to the WWF?

KVE: It was just- I was starting to handle the promotion here, I was handling the booking of wrestlers, I was handling wrestlers that were unhappy with their checks, I was handling everything. I got tired of it, I said I'm a wrestler, I'm not made to sit in an office all day, then fight all night, so I went to New York. A lot of my good friends are up in Titan Sports. The Ultimate Warrior is one of my closest friends, Hulk Hogan is a good, good friend of mine, Jake the Snake, I mean a lot of those guys are very close friends to me, just like brothers to me. I decided I wanted to be with the guys that I really cared about that were still in the sport, and that's why I went to New York. I thought I might go to Titan and finish my last days in the business, but then again, as I told Vince McMahon, I'll commit for two years and that's all I will come for. I came in and stayed for two years and six months and stepped out. (The promise that Vince made to me to bring me in was) that I'd be paid right.

JC: I noticed when you first came in to the WWF that they emphasized the nickname, Texas Tornado. After a while, did they want to just have you work as the Texas Tornado and basically eliminate your name, Kerry Von Erich?

KVE: They tried to over and over and over and over again. Every tv, whenever they would say, Texas Tornado, and they didn't say Kerry Von Erich, I always stopped the tape right there and went back and said, no it's Kerry Von Erich, the Texas Tornado. But I've never let it be said on tv, just Texas Tornado. I would not leave the Von Erich name. The Von Erich gimmick is no gimmick (you don't need a gimmick). I got up there, it was just a little bit too much show for me man, just too much show. This Papa Shango stuff has just been ridiculous to me.

JC: You were scheduled to wrestle him at SummerSlam...

KVE: Yeah and that was one of the problems (why I left).

JC: Did they want to do something weird or non-wrestling type things with you at SummerSlam with Papa Shango?

KVE: Yeah, I'm really not at liberty to talk about it, but yeah they did. It was just Papa Shango stuff and certain stuff that I just didn't agree with. I had a problem with it man. I got a problem with people not believing what I do. I fight my heart out in the ring, like I said, my brothers have given their lives to this business, and for someone to think what I do is not on the up-and-up, I want to say, hey f___ you.

JC: What other reasons caused you to leave the WWF?

KVE: Yeah, well I'm going to be doing a movie and Titan wanted to get 50% of my earnings. There's a lot of things Titan tries to take 50% of, that I'm not really willing to give.

JC: Does Vince think that he made you who you are and that because of that he deserves to take half of all of your out-of-company earnings?

KVE: Yeah, except I didn't agree with that. I didn't think New York (WWF) made Kerry Von Erich any bigger than he already was when he went there. When I went to WWF, I did them a favor. That's when they asked me to come in, they were in trouble (summer of '90 collapse of house show business), they needed help, they offered me a whole lot of money, and I said, okay I'll come in.

JC: Did the WWF ever have ideas about bringing your brother Kevin in to join you?

KVE: Yeah they did. Kevin is one of the greatest wrestlers this business has ever seen, he's quicker than a cat, faster than lightning. I think WWF wanted to tone the Von Erichs down because they know the strength of my family in this business. They in so many words paid me out, bought me out, I sold out to them for two years and I didn't sell out any longer and so I came back home. Now that I'm back home, I'll be fighting with Kevin and hopefully we'll start fighting all over this country together again and take back

the belts and the Von Erich right to this business. It's time for this business to rebuild and the Von Erichs have not yet begun to fight and we're about to start.

JC: What happened when Kevin got a tryout for the WWF?

KVE: When Kevin was out there fighting, I said take a look at him, he's got everything you guys want. I think when they saw Kevin fight, it scared them. They thought wow, he might be what we're looking for. They thought, now we'll have to tone Kerry down even more, so they'll have a lot more of a problem building him back up to where they were. But I want to say that the WWF was not unfair to me, it's just that some of things they did, I didn't believe in.

JC: Turning back the clock to around February of this year, you had disappeared from the scene for a while. Could you discuss with us what happened to you?

KVE: Well, I stepped out because I went to Betty Ford. I just got locked up in pain killers and drugs. It came a time where I realized if I kept on doing drugs to keep on kicking ass and taking bumps in the ring, that it was going to finally kill me. When you start doing drugs you get lost in them. I wasn't doing drugs to party, I was doing drugs to keep myself going, keep myself well, keep injuries down, and to keep myself in the gym. I know so many people that I know are in them that are in our business. I'm one of the few, one of the very few that got help. Maybe one out of a thousand of us have stopped and got help. Whenever there's a lot of injuries involved, whenever there's a lot of heartache with death and family, you try to escape a lot, you try to medicate those feelings. You just find out you're going down a one-way street. I speak a lot now all over the United States, all over the world to kids on leadership, goals, Jesus Christ, drugs, friends, family, and everything else. But I would not know about the problems with drugs if I didn't deal with drugs, I would not know all the problems with death if I didn't deal with death, I would not know the problems in family without dealing with family problems. Those are all a gift from God, although they're a very misconceptionized gift, they are a gift, because I did learn from them, and anything you learn from is a gift. (After my motorcycle accident) that's whenever I started getting access to a lot of pain killers and stuff. But it was way before then. The death of David, just almost killed me, I almost blew my f_____ head off, when David died, in fact I would've been happy too. My brother Kevin felt the same way, my brother David was our whole world, he was one of the brothers. Then my brother Mike killed himself and that ended my world again. Then my brother Chris, who idolized me in everything I did, he always wanted to be like me, and always told me, Kerry man, you got everything, how come, why do you have everything? I used to tell Chris, you got things that I want too, like the ability to laugh at things and your ability to draw and the ability you have with your hands and to love, just your ability to love alone, is something I value and wish I had, but he always wanted my athletic ability. But I don't care who you are, what you are, or what you think you are, the grass is always greener over someone else's fence, it's always greener somewhere else. These baseball players are making a million bucks, and I'm making a million also, we're both making a million, but then again, he's playing baseball, I wonder what baseball is like, and so you want to try something else, you want to do something else. That's the way my brother Chris was to me, really that's the way all the brothers are. I mean I envy Kevin's values as far as his quickness in the ring, his love for children, I envy that. I envy David's ability for his love that he gave other people and his love for the state of Texas. Mike, I envy his ideas, his sense of humor, his strength, his willpower, I envy that. But, it's not nothing I would take from them, but it's something that when they died, I took out of them and tried to put into myself. Anytime I took the world championship, my brothers were never, oh no, Kerry got it again, they were never that way, they were on my side. They never said, hey Kerry, slow down, back off the pace a little bit and give Kevin, David, Mike a chance to get into the limelight, it was, hey man, go for it. Who ever is in the press is who's doing the time, I just did a lot more at the time than they did.

JC: What was actually happening to you mentally when you got arrested?

KVE: It was all out of depression. It was all out of being out of control. Thank God it happened because if it didn't, I'd be dead, I really would. Thank God for Betty Ford, and for so many other things that pulled me out of the drug world. Vince McMahon was the one who helped me go to Betty Ford, straightened me out in that way, and so that's why I can't sit here and say, yeah they're a bunch of rip-offs, a bunch of thieves, a terrible show, cause I'll never say that against them.

JC: Then, what was really good of them, after they got you the help, they brought you back in...

KVE: Oh they sure did. Vince has totally supported me in that. I don't have a problem with that, I just had a problem with... I'm a idealistic kind of person when it comes to my business and my business is keep people believing. I don't believe in telling five, six, seven year old kids that there's no Santa Claus. I don't believe in going out and telling people that our business not for real, I believe that our business is something that we've all fought our guts out for, and we'll die for it. My dad has given it his total help to this business, Gene Kiniski, Joe Blanchard, Johnny Valentine, Buddy Rogers, these guys have made our business for real, have given their total lives for it. I'll be damned if I'm going to be one of them who lays down and says our lives aren't worth s___ and that this is just how it is. I'll tell you what, money is the key motivation in our business until you sit back and look at the values. I'm second generation, my father was a fighter, I live be-

cause of this business, I survive because of this business. People who just come walking in off the street, and say I want to be a wrestler and become a wrestler and because they're big and goofy looking, Vince makes them a big, big star, and they never paid their dues. They never went through it as a kid being beat up in school because some kid says your dad is a fake, I mean I had to kick his ass, and I got my ass kicked over and over again. So we learned to care and respect and do anything we can to keep this business alive. I got my ass kicked too many times because I was trying to make other people believe. I will, on my deathbed, sware that this business is real. Just remember, WWF is sports entertainment, but it's time to go back to the old school and protecting our business and working our ass off in the ring and doing whatever it takes to take our business back to the top, and put on the skills and the motivation, and the desire, and the love, and the needs that this business has got to have in order for it to survive forever. If you want it to go ten years, then the WWF is it, but if you want to make it go forever, WWF isn't it.

JC: Am I talking to Bill Watts! You really seem to have the same opinions that he has and I agree totally with you as the WWF is only a short-run success, which may already have ended or is ending soon. Is anything going on between you and Bill Watts?

KVE: Well, Bill Watts and my father were very close as far as business-wise goes. Bill Watts is now like a God, he believes in God, he reads the Bible, and I talked to him on the phone the other day. I was very impressed with the way he sounded, he is trying to bring our business back to the way it should be and the way it should've never gone away from. I got total respect for the WCW and for what they're trying to do, whether they do or not, I don't know, maybe that's up to my brother Kevin and I, we'll find out. So we're just going to go out there, it's time to blacken a few eyes and break a few shoulders and break a few ribs to get the business back to the way it used to be, and that's what we're going to do.

JC: Could you be joining Bill Watts in his crusade to bring wrestling back to the way it should be?

KVE: My brother Kevin and I think we might want to start Dallas back up, I'm probably going to work for Baba (New Japan Pro-Wrestling) for a while. I'm not sure man, I just got to let my heart lead me and do it in the faith of God and in the faith of my brother Kevin. So I don't know, I might go to WCW, I know the conditions have to be right. I know whatever decision I make will be the right one. I'm not going to make a move without Kevin though.

JC: Was Kevin wanting to come in the WWF to be with you when you were there?

KVE: No, Kevin was trying really hard to stay out of it. I was trying to get him in, he was trying to stay out. I said come on in Kevin, it's killer money up here, and he was saying, come on Kerry, it really sucks up there.

JC: You seem to now have all of your priorities and your values in order, did the Betty Ford clinic help you see these things?

KVE: These values were already there, but values that I lost because of being in drugs, I've always had these values, it's just that drugs takes away a lot of values, a lot of pride people have inside. It's painful and very sad to see, but that's just the way it is. Here's a stat for you man, only of everybody that has ever gotten into drugs, only 5% ever have gotten out. Drugs make you a liar, a cheater, a thief, and everything else. My marriage stayed strong through the whole thing, what broke us up was trials and the deaths of brothers over and over again, it's losing the sight of values, things like that. She is like begging me to come back brother. She's on her knees saying, please come back, please come back! I'm saying get away babe, I'm busy. But that ain't how I feel, it's a sad thing anytime a divorce is being done, but it's something I had to do.

JC: How did you feel about being on the road as much as you were when you were with the WWF?

KVE: When I'm on the road, I'm very much to myself. I go from the airport to the hotel, I eat, I go to the gym and train, then I go back to my hotel room and I just cool out before the fight.

JC: How did your family react when they found out about the problems that you were going through?

KVE: They were very supportive, they were ready to see me get off drugs. They knew that it was a one-way street to nowhere. Everybody thought that I would be the next one (of the Von Erich brothers) to die. The big news story hit my mom and dad here and they called them while I was out of the country and said that I hung myself. My mom and dad really flipped out, my brother Kevin heard it too, and Kevin believed it, and my mom and dad believed it totally. In fact, my dad went to one ranch, my mom went to the other ranch, and all my dad's Christian friends gathered around my father and stayed by his side, them thinking that I had committed suicide. Then I came back into the country and I called my father, and I'll never forget the sound of his voice. One of his friends answered the phone and his friend said, Jack, it's Kerry. My dad's first sound of his voice was, Nooooo! He said, son, son, son, are you okay? He couldn't believe it, he didn't have words, it was like someone's son coming back to life. You've got to remember, I had so many brothers commit suicide that all of a sudden, when we hear that stuff, we believe it first, and then we don't believe it second, cause you don't get that second chance. It was really something, but it was on all the news here in Texas and on all the radio programs that I had killed myself. Until I got back in the country and they saw

that I was alive, all the channels, channel 8, channel 4, and channel 5, everybody retracted that I killed myself. It was on all the radio stations and everything.

JC: That is one thing that I have noticed, that your hometown and around the Dallas area is really behind you and your family. That was quite evident at the funeral of your brother David, because the whole Dallas area was in shock and filled with sadness.

KVE: When my brother David died, the funeral was bigger than the Kennedy funeral. The police department, the helicopters and the motorcycles, they stopped all the traffic on the highway going to David's grave sight. It was incredible, it was a great, great feeling. There was a lot of people who felt like they lost a brother. You've got to remember, my brothers and I competed in high school and college, and everything we did was put on tv. Every time I scored a high school touchdown, it was on the news. They used to call my football team, not Lake Dallas Football Team, they called it Adkisson (the real name of all the Von Erichs) & Company in the newspaper. That made me feel good, it showed me that my state was behind me.

Kerry Von Erich recently quit the WWF in mid-July and is happily looking forward to working the independents, Japan, and possibly join Bill Watts in the WCW. The Wrestling Flyer wishes him the best in whatever he decides to do and we thank him for offering his views and opinions to us.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Surprise! Surprise! On the weekend of 7/25, all WWF shows announced that the Disasters had won the belts at the Worcester, MA, tv taping just a couple of days earlier on 7/20. This is a new concept for Vince, as he usually waits weeks to air a title change or even make mention of it. Many think he did this because Ted DiBiase's jump to WCW might come quicker than predicted. Vince wanted to get the belt off of DiBiase as soon as possible, therefore staying out of a vacant title mess when DiBiase does jump. DiBiase has told several sources that he is unhappy about the Money Inc. tag team and that he likes the direction his old buddy Bill Watts is going. We'll have to wait and see just when Ted will make his move.

The WWF cancelled several US house show dates to take half of the crew overseas in late September. They are doing tv tapings on 9/21 and 9/22 in Winnepeg, MB, and Brandan, MB, respectively. On 9/23, half of the crew will start making there way to Germany and the other half will do a house show in Sioux City, IA. The overseas group will do shows on 9/24 in Stuttart, Germany; 9/25 in Dortmund, Germany; 9/26 in Hamburg, Germany; 9/27 in Kiel, Germany; 9/28 in Sheffield, England; 9/29 in Birmingham, England; 9/30 in Berlin, Germany; and will continue to do overseas shows for the first few days in October. The other half of the crew will stay in the states during those dates and will run shows on 9/24-9/27 in Omaha, NE, Green Bay, WI, Tampa, FL, and Ft. Myers, FL, in that order. The business might be great over there, but if Vince starts running over there too often, the business over here might drop even more than it already has. They are also running a lot of dates in Canada for the month of September.

A couple weeks ago on Rick Carter & Bill Kunkle's radio show out of Las Vegas, a young man, identified as "Barney," spoke up about harassment he went through from WWF officials. In March, Barney appeared on the Phil Donahue show dealing with the WWF's scandals. He was the kid wearing the Lex Luger shirt, who when given the microphone, rambled insults at Bruno Sammartino (dealing with his son David's dismissal from the WWF) and Barry O (about him being in jail). Barney claims that he attended a show at the Nassau Coliseum on Long Island, New York, on Jan. 11, 1991, as his Boy Scout Troop were there on a special trip. He claims that in one way or the other, a WWF official harassed him. He brought in to the attention of Vince and up until right before the Donahue Show, nothing was done about it. Vince told him that he would help him if he made those remarks on Donahue, as a favor to Vince. Well, Barney did that and he said after that nothing else happened. He is now telling his story and we'll have more on this after we speak to someone who is very close to this particular situation.

As for Vince's WBF, there is a lot of speculation about it's downfall. They've lost some of their stars and they have ceased the publication of their WBF Magazine. As Jesse Ventura said on the last WCW PPV, "there's no money in body building."

In a related issue to the overseas tours, Vince is thinking of turning Rick Martel face, mainly to boost the houses

on their upcoming shows in France. Vince figures the people there would flock to see Martel, as he was once *tres popalaire* over there.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

WCW held another Center Stage tv taping this past week on 7/27. The major thing that happened was an incident involving the feud between Steve Williams & Terry Gordy and the Steiners. Doc & Gordy came out and told the audience that they were going to go back to Japan for a trip and that they didn't want the Steiners to be around when they get back. They then introduced Paul E. Dangerously as the guy they hired to take care of this assignment. He was hired by the WCW/NWA Tag Team Champions to put together teams to put the Steiners out of commission. While Doc & Gordy are in Japan, Paul E. will be talking about them a lot and in a sense, represent them while they're away. After all those announcements, there was a small altercation between Doc & Gordy and the Steiners, but nothing monumental. It appears as though Arn Anderson & Bobby Eaton will be the tag team put together by Paul E. to go after the Steiners. Later in the card, Eaton & Anderson wrestled together in a tag match against Brian Pillman & Larry Zbyszko, where during that match, they broke Zbyszko's arm.

Two weeks ago in California, Missy Hyatt and Jason Hervey were involved in an accident. They were riding separate motorcycles when a reckless and possibly intoxicated driver at the time, swerved into them, causing both to lose their balance and crash. Fortunately, they only suffered minor scratches and bruises. They were released from the hospital later that night. Missy and Jason are still scheduled to be in Cherry Hill, NJ, on 8/1 for that special tennis tourney to raise money for a worthy cause.

The next WCW PPV event will be Halloween Havoc on 10/25. It was originally scheduled to take place from Baltimore, MD, but apparently it will now take place in Philadelphia, PA. But then again, the Bash PPV was switched around between these two cities and look where it ended up- Albany, GA. Hopefully this time it really will emanate from Philly.

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

The Philadelphia Original Sports Bar on 8th & Market St. in Philly has closed its doors, as it went out of business. Former promoter Joel Goodhart started running wrestling shows there and started a trend. It was a very unique and innovative theme. Wrestling in a bar, so it was aptly called, Bar Wars. Joel went out of business and Joel's backers opened the Eastern Championship Wrestling, which has since relied on the Sports Bar, as it was their major outlet to run shows. The ECW didn't have to pay a charge to run shows there, as their events brought in a lot of money through their fans buying drinks, food, and playing video games. ECW had many upcoming shows scheduled there, with their tv depending on it. The Aug. 11 show and all others are obviously cancelled and the debut of ECW on tv has been postponed. Where does this leave ECW? The Wrestling Flyer spoke to the president & owner of ECW, Tod Gordon, and he made the following comments. "I think it's really a shame because it was a great venue for fans to watch wrestling, but fortunately there are a lot of clubs in the area that still are interested in putting wrestling on. That includes the Chestnut Cabaret, who hopefully will be allowing people under 21 in as of this week. The Aztec Club and some other venues are very interested in putting pro-wrestling on and have all contacted the ECW." When The Flyer asked Tod if he thought he could survive at the Cabaret, where at the last show, he drew less than 100 people, he responded by saying, "I think there were three reasons for that. One, because we ran back-to-back nights, two, because of the age limit, and three, because that night there was a tremendously horrible electrical thunderstorm, which knocked power out in half the city. But, by the September Cabaret show we'll get a better idea." There is also a new ECW hot line to update you on all their happenings at (215) 544-0421....Jimmy Snuka is really doing well for himself on the independent circuit. He is the current ECW champ, he became the champion of Tommy Dee's UWS promotion on 7/24. That night in New York City, he defeated Ax from Demolition (Bill Eadie) in 2-3 falls before 800 people to become champ. Then he became champion of the WWWA on 7/25 when he beat Jack Hammer.... Dino Sanna and his World Wide Wrestling Alliance made their promotional debut on 7/24 at the National Guard Armory in Northeast Philly before about 150 people. King Kaluha and Larry Winters wrestled to a time-limit draw. Heidi Lee Morgan beat Rustee "The Foxx" Thomas to win the WWWA Ladies Title. Johnny Hotbody pinned Tony Stetson in a wild brawl, during which Hotbody threw over twelve chairs into the ring (best match of the night). The Powers of Pain (Warlord & Barbarian) beat Jim the Messenger & Steve Savage to become the first ever WWWA Tag Team Champions. Johnny Rebel beat Dennis Diamond to become the first WWWA Intercontinental Champion. Nikolai Volkoff beat Red Alert. Jack Hammer pinned Jimmy Snuka (clean finish) to become the first WWWA Heavyweight Champion. Snuka had just arrived before that match from New York at about 11:15pm, as he wrestled earlier in the evening up there for the UWS. The WWWA ran a show the next night in Orwigsburg, PA, before about 350 people. Kaluha beat Dennis Diamond. Heidi Lee beat Rustee the Foxx. Hotbody vs Stetson ended in a no-contest, once again, they had the best match of the night. Steve Savage & Jim the Messenger beat the Powers of Pain to win the WWWA Tag Team Titles after Snuka interfered and headbutted Barbarian off the second rope, then Messenger pinned the man who is currently one-half of the WCW United States Tag Team Champions, the Barbarian. Larry Winters beat Red Alert. Coalcracker Jack (local favorite, worst worker ever seen) beat Johnny Rebel to win the WWWA IC belt. Jimmy Snuka beat Jack Hammer to win the WWWA Title after his legendary leap. The big news from this show was the announcement of their next card there. It will be on 9/19 in Orwigsburg, PA, at the Memorial Building. They announced the main event as Jimmy Snuka vs Roddy Piper. Can you believe it? That would be quite a coup for this promoter if he actually pulls that off. Also on the next card is the Iron Sheik, and a falls count anywhere rematch between Hotbody and Stetson. They also have shows scheduled for Lansdale, PA, on 9/26 and

10/10 in Pottstown, PA....On 7/31, the Buena Wrestling Federation will make their debut at the Buena Vista Camping Grounds in Buena, NJ, at 7pm. The promoter is a guy who's ring name was the Concrete Cowboy. There will be a battle royal to crown the first BWF Champion. Wrestlers appearing on this card include Chris Canyon, Don Rock, Tiger Singh, Big Rich Montana, Black Panther, Black Tiger, Mike Fury, Dublin Destroyer, Maniac Jimmy Deo, Bald Eagle, Vinman Anthony, and Fabulous Firehawk. For more info call (215) 659-6706.

FLYER FAN FARE

If you would like the August/September calendar of all upcoming WWF events, simply send two stamps to the Flyer, and remember your address so we can send you back a copy.

My dear friend Georgiann Makropoulos, editor of the Wrestling Chatterbox Newsletter, was a good friend of Buddy Rogers' and her very special August issue will be a tribute to Buddy. It will be about thirty pages long and will include letters, memories, photos of the original Nature Boy. This special tribute will also include two pages of colored photos of Buddy. Please support this project, as she is putting a lot of time and energy into it. It is only $3.50 ($5 if outside of US) for non-Chatterbox members and is well worth it. Send your payment and any contributions you would like to make for this issue (photos, special memories or stories about him, etc) to her at 23-44 30th Drive, Astoria, NY 11102-3252. Tell her The Flyer sent you.

ATTENTION ALL FLYER SUBSCRIBERS: We are looking for responsible correspondents for live arena results from around the country and around the world. If any of you attend a show, could you please call our phone line (215)566-6590, within the next day after the event and leave the results, any other interesting notes on the show, and the place and arena where it was held, after the message. Remember to also leave your name and address, as we'll add 1 issue to your current subscription with us. Non-Flyer subscribers will be mailed out a complimentary issue.

* No events held in and around the Philly area are needed.

The Wrestling Flyer Newsletter is a bi-weekly publication available by subscription for $1.50 ($2.25 for orders outside of U.S.) per issue. Please make all payments payable to the editor, John Clark. Each issue is eight pages full of fascinating interviews, fresh inside news, articles, results, and a great color photo accompanies each issue. The color photo with issue #8 is of Papa Shango.

The number after your name on the address label tells you how many issues are left on your current subscription. If you have a (0) after your name, this is your last issue.

Part 1 of our interview with Bruno Sammartino ran in issue #7. Part 2 of that interview will be in issue #9, where he discusses why him and his son David don't talk to each other anymore, his feelings about Hulk Hogan as a role model, and what keeps him busy these days.

PENTHOUSE MAGAZINE EXPLORES THE WWF'S SCANDALS

Check out the September 1991 Penthouse Magazine with Howard Stern on the cover and the caption reading: Howard Stern has a very small penis. After drooling over all the nice pictures this mag has to offer, turn to page 76. There you will find a scandalous article titled No-Holds-Barred; wrestling under siege. Jeff Savage really dug out the hidden facts on the current scandals that are eating away at the WWF and delivered them in a very damaging way. Here a few excerpts from the article.

pg. 76: The night clerk called for help. When police broke through the motel-room door at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge outside of Syracuse, New York, they found 250-pound pro wrestler Jimmy Snuka in his underwear, standing over a screaming woman. "Let her put her clothes on," Snuka demanded, and then came at them. It took nine cops and two police dogs to subdue the wrestler.

Four months later, Snuka was at a different motel with the same woman. Paramedics arrived at the George Washington Motor Lodge in Whitehall, Pennsylvania, and rushed semiconscious 23-year-old Nancy Argentino to the Lehigh Valley Hospital Center, where she died two hours later from a fractured skull.

Snuka had an explanation. He said they had been drinking beer in the car on their way to Whitehall that day, and they stopped alongside the road to urinate behind some bushes. On their way back to the car, Snuka said, the woman slipped and hit her head on a guardrail. "Where was this?" an investigator asked.

"I don't know," Snuka said. "She was driving."

This was 1983. The case is still open.

pg. 178: Lehigh County forensic pathologist Isidore Mihalakis performed the autopsy on Nancy Argentino and something didn't add up. So Jimmy Snuka- the WWF's most popular wrestler at the time, who is known for his "Superfly squat" in which he jumps off the top rope onto his victims- was questioned again. Snuka stood by his story that the woman had slipped and hit her head on a roadside guardrail. "After that interview with Snuka, I still felt unhappy about it," Mihalakis says, "but it wasn't enough for the DA to pursue the case."

Whitehall Township detective Gerry Procanyn, the prime investigator, says he finds it puzzling that Argentino could have functioned normally throughout the day until her death. Okay, she supposedly conks herself on the head," Procanyn says. "But then she's able to drive the rest of the way here. She's able to walk to a diner and order food and bring it back to the room. Then, all of a sudden, she dies."

Wayne Snyder, then the Lehigh County deputy coroner, says there's one final point of significance concerning the autopsy. "The fracture is on the back of her head. Okay, fine," he says. "But what about the marks on her face? What about the multiple bruises on various parts of her body? We have a highly suspicious death, and I don't believe it to

be accidental. This case has to be investigated as a homicide."

Why wasn't it? Whispers abound.

"Vince McMahon sat with Snuka through the interviews, yes," detective Procanyn says. "But a cover-up? That's pure unadulterated bullshit. There was a full and complete report. C'mon, how would you cover up something like that?"

pg. 164: The remuneration to Tom Cole was far less. Cole began working for the WWF in 1985, at the age of 13, as a ring boy. He would help set up and take down rings and was handed $100 bills too many times to count. He once misplaced his windbreaker and was given $500 to buy a new one. "Best of all," he says, "I got to hang out with the wrestlers."

Tom says he had worked for only a few weeks before ring announcer Mel Phillips began sexually molesting him in motel rooms. "He would play with my feet or suck on my toes and he would masturbate while he was doing it," Cole says. "He played with my feet sometimes for hours at a time. He had a foot fetish, and he played with all the young boys' feet all the time. Sometimes he would film it on a camcorder." Cole says Phillips wasn't the lone perpetrator. "Pat Patterson would walk by while I was setting up the ring, and he'd grab my balls. I'd hate it, but there was nothing I could do. He's the boss."

The abuse peaked in February 1990, at the Sheraton in Stamford, when Terry Garvin, another McMahon assistant, entered Tom's hotel room unannounced. "He was drinking vodka and trying to get me to drink some. He said he could take me to a strip joint or get me a prostitute, anything I wanted," says Cole. "I told him I wasn't interested. Then he said, 'You could go a long way in the company if you sleep with me.' Then he turned out off the lights. I got scared and said, 'You're making me nervous. Please leave the room'"

Garvin tried again a few days later, this time with more intensity. He and Tom were on their way to the WWF warehouse in the company van when Garvin announced that he had to stop at his house along the way. He told Tom that his wife would love to meet him. When they arrived, Garvin said he had forgotten that his wife was in Florida. Cole says Garvin fixed himself a drink and put on a pornographic movie. He begged Tom for sex, but the ring boy refused, pleading with Garvin to take him back to the WWF headquarters. Garvin continued to drink, smoke, and beg.

Eventually, Garvin was too intoxicated to move, and he told Tom they would have to spend the night at the house. "I was scared shitless," Cole says. "There was no way I was going to sleep in his house. So I slept in the van outside in the driveway." Cole was fired the next day. "They said I was no longer needed. I know if I would've slept with him and the rest of those guys, I'd probably be rich now. They were like drug dealers with all the money they threw around."

Cole's accounts were confirmed by another ring boy, Chris Loss, who says the harassment began during his first day on the job, in 1989, when Mel Phillips purposely stomped on his foot. Then Phillips removed the boy's shoe and began massaging his foot and apologizing. "He kept rubbing my toes and I thought, 'Man, that's messed-up behavior,'" Loss says. "It was really weird, but I didn't say anything. I found out it happens all the time to guys."

EDITOR: Tom Cole had a meeting with Vince McMahon to talk about what had happened to him. During that meeting, Vince worked on Cole using his "Mr. Nice Guy" tactics, which he is very good at. Cole agreed to retract all of his statements and was hired back with a two-year contract as a ring boy and $70,000, and he was also promised a tryout as a ring announcer at a later date. Vince has now turned Tom against his brother, Lee Cole. Lee was behind Tom all the way and was most disappointed when Tom decided to go back to work for Vince. Tom now thinks of his brother as the bad guy and thinks of Vince as the good guy. Now, Vince & Linda McMahon have also persuaded Margaret Cole to think that Lee was the disturbance and that he meant Tom harm. Lee is suffering tremendously now, as he has lost a brother and a sister, that's the power that Vincent K. McMahon has.

HOUSE SHOW RESULTS

WCW at the Myriad Arena in Oklahoma City, OK, on 7/23: Tom Zenk & Marcus Bagwell beat Freebirds when Bagwell pinned Hayes. Steve Austin pinned Big Josh. Bobby Eaton pinned Larry Zbyszko with interference from Paul E. Ricky Steamboat beat Cactus Jack. Dustin Rhodes beat Greg Valentine. Rick Rude pinned Barry Windham. Ron Simmons beat Super Invader. Sting beat Big Van Vader by DQ. Gordy & Williams beat Steiners when Gordy pinned Scott.

WWF at the Palace in Auburn Hills, MI, on 7/24: Virgil beat Kato. Crush beat Skinner with the head-Crush. Tatanka pinned Rick Martel. Undertaker pinned Ted DiBiase (subbing for Berzerker) and after the match destroyed Fuji & Jimmy Hart. Big Bossman beat Nailz by DQ. Disasters beat Money Inc by countout. Randy Savage beat Ric Flair by DQ.

WCW at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, MO, on 7/25: Bagwell & Zenk beat Freebirds. Eaton pinned Zbyszko with interference from Paul E. Steamboat beat Cactus Jack. Steve Austin pinned Windham with interference from Paul E. Dustin Rhodes & Ron Simmons pinned Rick Rude & Super Invader. Gordy & Williams pinned Steiners. Van Vader pinned Sting with interference from Harley Race.

MORE ECW NEWS

The event on 8/12 at the Chestnut Cabaret on 38th & Chestnut Sts., will be open to all ages. Matches include Snuka vs Super Destroyer #1, Hotbody vs Winters for TV Title, Sal Bellomo vs Stetson in a Lumberjack Match, and Sandman vs Tommy Cairo. They've booked the Aztec Club at 939 North Delaware Ave in Philly for an event on 8/22 at 1:30pm, with all ages being welcome. ECW tv will be on Thursdays at 7pm with the starting date being 8/20. They will be on the following cable systems: Greater Media Cable- Ch. 74, Harron Cable- Ch. 2, Delaware County Suburban Cable- Ch. 31, Northeast Philly Comcast Cable- Ch. 70, and Bala Cynwyd Comcast Cable- Ch. 52.